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March 10, 1959

MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT
March 6, 1959

Others present: Secretary Herter
General Goodpaster

Secretary Herter handed the President a proposed draft of a reply to the USSR regarding the Berlin/German situation, intended to be circulated to the British, French and Germans for their consideration. After studying the text and discussing it with Mr. Herter, the President indicated lines on which he would like the paper revised, including a reorganization or addition by which the note would be made to end on a favorable point, i.e., a point of agreement. The discussion centered on the manner of dealing with the scope of the agenda -- i.e., freedom to bring up the question of German re-unification.

Later in the morning (after the meeting with the Congressional Leaders) Mr. Herter met briefly with the President to present to him a draft of the message regarding atomic test suspension. This took the form of a letter to Prime Minister Macmillan, the substance of which might be sent to Khrushchev by the President and by Macmillan in separate letters. The President read, edited and discussed the covering letter. Mr. Herter felt that the proposed text to Khrushchev was not in satisfactory form, and asked to consider this part of the package further.

Mr. Herter also discussed with the President a revision proposed by Wadsworth to the text of the "duration" article previously approved by the President, and the President indicated that the proposed review was agreeable to him. The President also commented that we must bring the French in on our discussions regarding the note to Khrushchev. Mr. Herter said the British are showing some tendency to ask us to hold up on everything until Mr. Macmillan is here, but that it did not seem desirable to do so. The President strongly agreed that we must not leave a ten-day or two-week vacuum.

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Subsequently, Mr. Herter sent over a revision of the proposed text to Macmillan, eliminating the enclosure proposed to be sent to Khrushchev.


A. J. Goodpaster
Brigadier General, USA



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